

The Weekly Louisianian.

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"REPUBLICAN AT ALL TIMES, AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES."

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HON. P. B. S. PINCHBACK.

Rarely has a scene been witnessed

in the House of Representatives

more remarkable and striking for

its novelty, than was that presented

on Monday last, when the gentle-

man named above appeared on its

floor, and was permitted to speak

for himself. Mr. Pinchback's posi-

tion, as our readers know, is sin-

gular in that he comes here from

Louisiana, legally accredited both

to the Senate and to the House of

Representatives, having been first

delected by the people of his State

as Congressman at large, and sub-

sequently elected by the Legisla-

ture of his State to a seat in the

United States Senate. His case

illustrates the old saw that between

two stools one is apt to fall to the

ground. For neither the House

nor the Senate has thus far admit-

ted his claims; though in our judg-

ment he is clearly entitled to a seat

in the latter body, and that nothing

but the gravest partiality and in-

consistency deprives him of his

place. The speech of Mr. Pinch-

back, on Monday, was deeply tinged

with a sense of injustice and the in-

diginity of his double exclusion from

the places to which he had been

elected. It was in some respects

humorous, argumentative and point-

ed, but it was delivered much less

as an appeal than a defiance, and it

may be fairly questioned whether

that style was most wisely chosen

for the occasion, and yet we were

compelled to admire the free, manly

and independent bearing of Mr.

Pinchback as he described his de-

votion and services to the Republi-

can party, the sacrifices made in its

behalf and the sternness with which

he applied the brand of inconsis-

tency to those who, while upholding

the Kellogg government of Louisi-

ana, make an exception against

him. His manner might have been

more winning and less aggressive,

but it was evident that he was

smarting under a sense of wrong,

and like a brave man as he is, he

found it hard to repress his manly

indignation. He was not there, he

said, to beg for his seat, and there

was something like a menace when

he said: "If I denied my rights here,

I will go back to my people in Loui-

siana, confident of a triumphant

From an Occasional Correspondent of the
Louisianian.

PLAQUEMINE, Iberville Parish, La.,
June 10th, 1874.

The ordinary quiet of rural life in

this section has been very materially

disturbed by the excitement conse-

quent upon the recent action of the

Republican State Central Executive

Committee, in having ordered a new

election for members of the Parish

Executive Committee of the parish.

At the election for officers of that body

held April 25th, a very large majority

was returned for the ticket, headed by

the Hon. P. G. Deslondes, the Secre-

tary of State, but the energy of the

opposition, led by Mr. W. W. Whar-

ton, late State Senator, acting under

instructions from New Orleans, caused

a protest to be filed; that eventuated

in the action of the State Committee

directing the election to be had over

again.

Sound Republicans are desirous of

nothing but the unity of the party.

Mr. Deslondes and his friends agreed to

abide by the order of the State Su-

preme authority, and so conscious were

they of their overwhelming majority,

that, beyond the selection of candi-

dates, no steps were taken toward any

unusual action. But, the wing led

here by Mr. Wharton, acting under

the inspiration of self-appointed man-

agers in New Orleans, adopted the

most vigorous measures to secure suc-

cess. The President of the Parish

Police Jury, is Charles Brulle, who,

although the Democratic candidate

for State Senator in 1872, has recently

(at Wharton's instigation), been ap-

pointed to that place; all the influence

of which, has been given unsparringly

to aid in the success of his patron.

The incumbents of the offices of Tax

Collector, Assessor, Parish Judge,

Parish Attorney, are all persons who

are either new recruits to the Republi-

can party, or else destitute of influence,

who have been appointed at Mr.

Wharton's suggestion, and who, con-

sequently exercise all their patronage

to oppose the very large majority of

the Republicans.

It is notorious that the officials to

whom I have referred have been com-

pelled to "put up" money in order to

bribe such mercenary men as they

could purchase. Equally notorious is

it, that illegal and extraordinary privi-

leges have been given to such store-keep-

ers as would either work for, or give

money to the delegates acting in War-

ton's interest. Persons occupying the

places of Justices of the Peace, have

been told that if they would re-

fuse their support to Mr. Wharton,

that the latter would have them re-

moved.

This Mr. Wharton claims openly

and publicly that he is at once the

representative of the Customhouse in-

terest and of Governor Kellogg, and

that both those influences are with

him—first, to secure his selection as

President of the Parish Committee,

your city, whose eloquence and quaint

humor, is much admired; John Car-

ville, Esq., Mr. Geo. Randolph and

other able Republicans.

The election for delegate occurs this

Saturday, and the "wire-pullers" in

New Orleans may rely with certainty

upon the fact, that the enormous ma-

jority of Republicans in this parish,

will insist upon the recognition of

their own right to control their own

affairs, and if this right be denied, no

influence or threats can frighten Re-

publicans here into the support of

men, who have been forced upon

them.

CHARGE.

The excitement of the fall cam-

paign is beginning somewhat early.

We fear our political friends will

exhaust their subject matter before

the issues are fairly before the peo-

ple. Bread has to be earned and

provision made for future suste-

nance of individuals and families

and while all are willing and anxious

to sustain and maintain the integ-

erty of the Republican party, our

friends naturally think there is

plenty of time to spare for more

direct purposes than entering upon

the excitement of a political cam-

paign when bread is wanting in

thousands of families whose all has

been entirely or partially destroyed

by the inundations from the Missis-

sippi river. We do not wish to

censure our party leaders in a cap-

tious spirit, but we do desire to call

their attention to one very essential

fact, and that is, to let our working

men alone and not be calling them

from their labors any oftener than

is necessary, to listen to speeches

from this or that aspirant for office,

when there is now or soon will be,

a general cry for bread throughout

the overflooded parishes of the State.

Those who are suffering for bread,

and those who see a dark and dreary

prospect ahead, are not apt to care

much for political issues, one way

or the other, when their first and

chief care lies in providing food for

themselves and little ones. Self

preservation being the first law of

nature and being well understood,

in the present instance, there should

be little excitement in this and

kindred communities until pros-

pects brighten for the future. On

election day full duty will be done

by all who believe in the faith and

future of the Republican party, but

it is gross injustice to require men

to intend political meetings when

their services are wanted in the

production of bread—Sugar Plan-

ter.

CHURCH CONDUCT.

There is nothing which so be-

trays the want of proper feeling and

manners as unbecoming conduct in

church during divine service. It is

presumed that every one who goes

to a church on Sunday, or any other

THE CROPS.
PROSPECTS IN ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, AR-

KANSAS AND TEXAS.

The National Crop Reporter has

published returns from one hundred

and ninety-eight correspondents,

covering one hundred and twenty-

five counties in the States of Ala-

bama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas,

in relation to the area planted this

season in cotton and corn in those

States. Deductions are also pub-

lished from the estimates of corres-

pondents in relation to the total of

spring and winter wheat now in the

ground, in the States of Illinois,

Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota,

Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The following is an abstract of the

principle information furnished in

the matter of cotton:

There is shown a falling off from

the area planted last year, averag-

ing in the four States first named

14-30 per cent. The decrease in

area is 18-19 per cent. in Ala-

bama; 9-10 per cent. in Missis-

sippi, and 5-10 per cent. in Tex-

as.

The area devoted to corn in the

same is placed at an increase over

the year past to the extent of 9-10

per cent. The increase is given

as 10-14 per cent. in Alabama; 9-

10 per cent. in Arkansas; 8 per

cent. in Mississippi, and 10-14

per cent. in Texas. The stand of

both cotton and corn in the States

named, was, May 15, much below a

full stand, although the stand of

corn was better than that of cotton.

In Louisiana the majority of re-

ports received, speak of a consid-

erable portion of the land as over-

flooded. In all the four States, the

lateness of the season has very much

delayed matters, and although

much of the replanting which be-

came necessary, had been accom-

plished at the date of the reports

there will still be a good deal of

land idle.

Estimates of correspondents in

the eight Western States previously

mentioned, indicate an average in-

crease in the total area of wheat of

sight and two-tenths per cent.

The general condition of the

growing grain at the date of the

last report was all that could be de-

sired, although the crop in Iowa

has suffered somewhat from the

depredations of grasshoppers.

A MODEL LOVE LETTER.

Madam—Your honesty and grave

countenance, your modesty and

your wisdom, your wit and great

judgment, and thousand other vir-

tuities with which you are

The Louisianian.

HENRY A. CORDIN, Publisher

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1874.

All letters on business connected with this paper should be addressed to H. A. CORDIN, Business Manager, New Orleans, Feb. 23, 1874.

The proprietor of this paper will not be responsible for the correctness of communications.

Col. W. B. BARRITT is our special agent, and is authorized to solicit subscriptions and receive payment of bills.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Presidents of all the Republican Clubs in the city are respectfully requested to send to this office, the time and place of meeting of their respective clubs. We desire to have a Club Directory in our columns.

NOTICE.

All parties now receiving the LOUISIANIAN are notified that the delivery of same will be discontinued, if not paid for by the first of July next.

CLUB DIRECTORY.

FIRST WARD CENTRAL CLUB—Corner Melbourn and White streets. Meets every Monday, at 7 1/2 o'clock. J. C. Miller, Pres't, George C. Norcross, Secretary.

SECOND WARD CENTRAL CLUB—Goddess Hall, Erato between Baronne and Grandet. G. F. Glandow, President, A. Priot, Secretary.

THIRD WARD CENTRAL CLUB—Clay Hall, Perdido street, meets every Saturday evening. C. F. Ladd, President, John Pullum, Secretary.

FOURTH WARD CENTRAL CLUB—Corner of Conti and Tremé streets, meets every Monday evening. Robert Malcolm, Pres't, Shas. F. Tigner, Secretary.

FIFTH WARD CENTRAL CLUB—Julius Lombard, President, O. P. Fernandez, Secretary.

SIXTH WARD CENTRAL CLUB—Clairborne near Ursaline streets. B. F. Joubert, President, L. Lamanere, Secretary.

TENTH WARD REPUBLICAN CENTRAL CLUB—First Street, near Liberty street. J. A. Kyser, President; meets every Tuesday.

THIRTEENTH WARD CENTRAL CLUB—Evening Star Hall, Cadex between Camp and Chestnut streets. A. Dejoie, President, J. B. Malony, Secretary.

SIXTEENTH WARD CENTRAL CLUB—Clairborne Hall, Adam street, meets every Saturday. John T. Claiborne, President, H. McCray, Secretary.

SEVENTEENTH WARD CENTRAL CLUB—Corner Camborne and Burth streets. T. B. Stampa, President, F. Diebol, Secretary.

IBERVILLE PARISH.—The result of the election held in this Republican stronghold for the Executive Committee of the parish cannot but be gratifying to those who oppose the efforts of certain schemers to divide the party in this State. The ticket headed by the Hon. P. G. Deslonde—the able chief of the State Department, carried six of the eight wards, by very large majorities; his opponents being successful in but one ward, whilst in the remaining ward the vote was a tie.

The opposition to Secretary Deslonde was vulgar abuse of Senator Pinchback, and colored men generally, that only received strength, because of the bold, and unscrupulous use of official patronage. Again, we congratulate the Republicans of Iberville, and Messrs. Deslonde, Durand, Cole, Scott, Randolph, Parker, Verrett and others, on the victory so gallantly achieved.

A DESERVED COMPLIMENT.

We welcome every evidence given by the common carriers of a purpose to contribute to the convenience and comfort of our people, as so much indication that the age of prejudice and proscription is passing away, and with more than ordinary pleasure we insert the subjoined tribute to one of the employees of the elegant steamer W. S. Pike.

Little courtesies make the individual life as little drops of water make the ocean.

To the Editor of the Louisianian.

Sir—In behalf of those peripatetic pilgrims who have occasion to travel on the Mississippi river, do sometimes meet with courteous attention from the attaches of the various boats, allow me to ask public applause for Mr. Dudley Turnbull, the Steward of the W. S. Pike, a young man whose politeness and desire to make those in his charge comfortable, is as creditable to himself as it is conducive to the increased patronage of the boat.

A COLORED MAN.

New Orleans, June 17, 1874.

THE LOUISIANA CASE IN THE HOUSE.

The Louisiana case, as the same was presented and considered before the House, in the contest of Geo. A. Sheridan against P. B. S. Pinchback, will be found ably and fully discussed in the speech of Governor P. B. S. Pinchback, published in this issue of our journal. We had occasion to discuss the action of the House upon this question in our last issue, but it will bear further consideration in this, so far as the same affects the political action of Gov. Pinchback in the past and in the future.

The Governor occupied the position in this contest growing out of a claim based upon the popular vote as Congressman at large, and the legislative vote of Senator elect of Louisiana.

As a singular coincidence, these titles, one originating in the election of November, 1872, by the people, and the other in January, 1873, by the General Assembly, came to be tried currently and at the same time.

It was competent, in him and consistent, to test his title to a seat in each House of Congress and then make the election as to the capacity in which Senatorial or Representative, he would qualify and serve his State. He, accordingly, and under the advice of the National leaders of the Republican party, filed his credentials before both Houses of Congress, claiming his seat *prima facie*, upon credentials recognized in other cases by the National Congress, and inviting thereafter contest and investigation, either as to the manner of his election, the sufficiency of his qualifications, or the validity of his claim. Secret attacks by certain so-called white Republicans, cropping out publicly in the hired journals of the country, met him on the threshold of his contest; and with a better case than any man seated in the Lower House from Louisiana, and by a large majority of votes, as Senator elect, cast by a General Assembly that makes laws, unquestioned and governing the people of a whole State—said laws enshrined by Federal Courts and their sanctity sustained by Federal troops—he is met with the denial of his *prima facie* claim and investigation and delay in order thereto, is suggested in his case.

The action heretofore taken by the Senate we have been, in frankness, compelled to characterize as partial, unfair, and questionable, both in its effects upon the Senatorial claimant and his constituents, but inasmuch as the provisional recognition of Governor Pinchback, as Senator, would determine the political question involved in the Louisiana case, we could find some palliation if not excuse for the non-action of the Senate. But in the instance of the House, when delay was demanded by no grave underlying and undetermined political problem, and in the teeth of the action taken by the honorable House in the cases of Messrs. Sheldon and Sypher—we find the same unmanly, unfair discrimination made against this representative and recognized leader of our people. The reason given by the Chairman of the Committee for not granting his seat *prima facie*, is singular, inasmuch as the martyrdom of the Congressman at large is to be condoned and compensated for, in the fact that his lost rights will lead to an investigation that will either ultimately sustain or overthrow the present State Government.

There is no necessary connection between this action of the House and the repeated and bitter assaults made upon Governor Pinchback, but the coincidence is singular in the concurrence of the events. Between the bitterness of Democratic partisans and the tricks and selfishness of the white Republican adventurers, who seem to think their success can be compassed only by the sacrifice of the most reliable and eminent among our colored leaders, Gov. Pinchback has found that he, who would serve a race in these distempored times, must take not only his life, but his heart and his good name, in his hands and consecrate himself fully to the public service. He has not proven himself unequal to the task imposed, nor will he. He is not a political mendicant, but has a constituency, able and willing to sustain him against all comers, and from whom he will return to the front of the fight always stronger, of better cheer and better equipped for the patriotic struggle.

We read his terse, fair, brave, manly speech for himself and his people with pride, and commend it to our readers.

HYPOCRITES OR MADMEN? WHICH?

Occasionally in Tennessee, Virginia, or the Carolinas, as the question of civil rights attracts public attention, a Democratic journal here and there utters its periodic growl against the negro, and says some foolish or uncharitable thing against our people. But it remains to Louisiana to have won the unenviable distinction of arraying the whole Opposition press, great and small, in an insane effort to establish party lines on the basis of color, and to have started a campaign in which contemplated success, to the minority of the people in the State, is hoped for only, by the humiliation and overthrow of the rights of the majority of the people thereof. Sometimes our race are portrayed as childish imbeciles, incapable of self-government with a questionable honesty neutralized by an unquestionable impotency, and then as a set of shrewd, unscrupulous, aggressive agrarians, with diabolical malice, seeking a political mastery which will find its expression in the destruction of the personal and property rights of the white citizen.

The *Picayune* and the *Bulletin* seem to be competitors as to which shall excel in the fierceness of its attacks and the insolence of its assumptions in this vicious, mischievous and dangerous crusade against our kindly, unobtrusive and fair-minded race. What does this programme signify? Do our contemporaries believe their own declarations? Do they expect the people to believe them? Are they bluffing or are they in earnest? Hypocrites or madmen! which? It is hard to tell which is the most execrable, the malice that would seriously seek the execution of the declared programme, or the hypocrisy that would compass its selfish ends by such means. We can very well conceive how the partisan, in the heat of his strife, may think and say all conceivably bitter things against the leaders of an opposing faction, but we can conceive of the allegations that have been made—both as to the character and purposes of a whole race who, in the nature of things, could have no motive for being vicious or dishonest—as proceeding either from a mental condition that makes the madman, or a moral obliquity that characterizes the hypocrite.

We repeat, hypocrites or madmen! which? In the meanwhile, we say to our people stand firm, and undismayed in maintenance of your rights, conceding justice and demanding it in return, respecting others and deserving and exacting the same.

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

As now agreed upon, the Federal Congress will adjourn on Monday next, 22d June. The present Congressional session has been notable for several things.

Many grave questions have been up for consideration. The National Finances, Cheap Transit for the people and for the products of the country; the Civil Rights Bill; the Louisiana Case; the Outlets to the Gulf and the Levee Problem—the two last of vital importance to the Mississippi valley—have respectively demanded a hearing and sought a solution in the interest of the American people.

Again, the questions, have each more or less been a source of division in the two National parties of the country, and neither has met with united support, or united opposition. We may safely say that the popular mind, in the definiteness of its conclusions and the vigor of its tone, is ahead of the action of a majority of its supposed representatives—and action on each of the questions named, as matters of great public moment, has up to date, not met either the public will or public expectation. Many protestations of personal patriotism and party integrity have been made by our Congressional servants; many speeches made, and very industrious effort by the leaders, to make party records, Republican and Democratic, that would prepare each party for the campaign of 1876, and especially that would in-

crease the chances for re-election of the honorable members in the approaching fall elections. When contemplating the questions of importance to be disposed of the session is a memorable one; but the work done is unsatisfactory and incomplete—all the grave questions considered are unsolved and from present appearances will remain so to the end of the session.

In short, with no lack of pretension, and self-assertion among its members, our National Legislature has distinguished this session mainly by what has not done, and if we mistake not the temper of the people, many of them will fail to ornament the incoming Congress with their august presence.

THE DURELL CASE.

From the subjoined despatches will be seen the action taken by the House Judiciary Committee, relative to Judge Durell. The despatches say:

"Business was generally confined to District affairs. The bill abolishing the present government of the District of Columbia passed by a vote of 316 yeas to 23 nays. "Mr. Wilson, of Indiana, from the Judiciary Committee, made a report on the impeachment case of Judge Durell, of Louisiana, with resolutions: First, that the Judge be impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors; second, that a committee of two be appointed by the House to go to the Senate and in the name of the House of Representatives impeach him, and inform the Senate that the House will in due time exhibit particular articles of impeachment and make good the same, and demand that the Senate take order for the appearance of Judge Durell to answer such impeachment; third, that a committee of seven be appointed to prepare articles of impeachment, with power to send for papers and persons.

"Mr. Trumbull, of New York, presented a minority report, signed by himself, Frye, of Maine, Cushman, of Pennsylvania, and Ward, of Illinois, dissenting from the conclusions of the majority of the committee, and recommending that all proceedings against Judge Durell be discontinued. He also presented another minority report, signed by Mr. Poland, of Vermont, dissenting from the majority of the committee, and recommending that the House should not take any action in regard to Judge Durell's case, but that the Judge should be left to answer for himself, and that the House should not take any action beyond his jurisdiction. The whole people were excited; the times were violent and turbulent, and judicial calmness and correctness could hardly be expected.

"The second point of Judge Poland's report is that the evidence seems to establish that some officers of Judge Durell's court were guilty of conspiracy and fraud, and that the Judge was not watchful to scrutinize their conduct, but that there is no claim that he ever shared in any of the proceeds of their gains, and no direct evidence that he knowingly sanctioned or approved their action.

"Third—That while the evidence obtained by a substantially *ex parte* examination only of the records of the court, and that it did not appear that the public interest would be furthered by presenting articles of impeachment."

It will appear from these despatches that the majority report of Judge Wilson, in favor of impeachment, is sustained by seven of the committee, and that the minority report of Mr. Trumbull is signed by four members of the committee, with a further minority report of one, signed by Judge Poland.

Messrs. Wilson and Eldridge, the sub-committee who conducted the preliminary examination at this place, and Gen. Butler, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, are among the parties who favor impeachment.

The case, at this late day, cannot be tried by the Senate, but the committee seem to be in earnest, and the House will, no doubt, place Judge Durell on trial.

The effect of the investigation, not only upon the accused Judge, but upon the Louisiana case, can at present only be conjectured. The truth, whether in vindication or condemnation, all good men must desire, and for its coming, the patient can afford to wait.

PERSONAL.—We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. P. Joseph, of the *Mobile Watchman*, on our streets yesterday.

Hon. Wm. Murrell, of Madison parish, is also in the city looking hearty, and reports the political outlook in his parish to be encouraging.

HALL TENTH WARD RADICAL REPUBLICAN CENTRAL CLUB, New Orleans, June 2, 1874.

Hon. P. B. S. PINCHBACK.—Sir: At an enthusiastic meeting of the above Club, the following resolution introduced by Mr. David Fisher, was adopted unanimously, viz:

WHEREAS, We learn with pleasure that the Hon. P. B. S. Pinchback has located in our Ward, therefore, Be it resolved, That we welcome him to our Ward as a tried Republican—a true friend—an untiring and unceasing laborer in the cause of the Republican party; a man in whom the people of Louisiana have reason to be proud, regardless of race or color; and a representative man of the colored population of this State in whose hands their rights have been reposed with perfect satisfaction to all.

That we hail his advent into our District as ominous of the brilliant career that still awaits him, and the renewed confidence in his devotion to principle and his integrity as a man.

Very respectfully,

J. A. KYSER, President.

F. DEFROUVILLE, Secretary.

REMARKS

OF
HON. P. B. S. PINCHBACK,
OF LOUISIANA,
In the House of Representatives,
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1874.

On his right to a seat as Representative at large from the State of Louisiana, as against the claim of Hon. George E. Sheridan.

Mr. PINCHBACK, (contesting.) Mr. Speaker, I appear under great disadvantage, from the fact that I have not had an opportunity of acquiring that knowledge which would enable me to indulge in such high flights of oratory as the distinguished gentleman who preceded me. The remarks of the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. Lamar] were expressed with a beauty and a power such as I have scarcely ever heard before; but his argument I came near saying was full of sophistry. I will not, however, be so harsh as that; but it was the more calculated to deceive, because it seemed to come from a spirit of conviction and honesty. Sir, there is no argument so fraught with evil, so fraught with the power of deception, as that which seems to emanate from an honest purpose and an honest conviction. I have no doubt but the argument of the gentleman from Mississippi sprang from a heart as pure and as unselfish as was ever found in the breast of man. I am willing to admit he religiously believed every sentence he uttered, but I beg respectfully, notwithstanding, to differ from him in his premises as well as in his conclusions. I will take them up, however, later on in the discussion.

I propose first to bring the House to the direct question at issue. You have not, Mr. Speaker, permitted us to express our opinions on this floor for a display of oratory, however entertaining such displays may be. I understand the House desires to get at some of the facts which underlie this question.

What are these facts? If this report of the committee has shown the House any single thing, it is in the first instance that I am entitled *prima facie* to a seat in this body. I am told by some of the best legal minds in this Capitol that it is a well-established rule in the House where the member has a *prima facie* right, that right holds good on its merits until it is overturned.

But, I repeat, what are the facts? These gentlemen say I present myself before the House on credentials coming from myself as acting Governor of Louisiana, and they go on to say myself and friends have shown a lack of interest in this case because we have not prepared the evidence to meet the case properly before the committee. They fail to recognize this other important fact of history that, after my election as Congressman at large, I was elected by the Legislature of Louisiana, which had been and still is recognized by the President of the United States through the Attorney General as the legal Legislature of that State, to a seat in the United States Senate, and have been and am now contending for a seat in that body.

This fact, I am told, sir, has been used both in the committee and on the floor of this House to prejudice the House against the recognition of my claim upon the flimsy, the false, and the absurd idea that I in some manner acted contrary to the dignity of this House when I saw fit to make application for a seat to which I had been chosen in the Senate of the United States and at the same time contest for a seat in this House. Why, sir, let me ask any Republican member of this House or any Democratic member whether if he had been in my position, elected on the 4th day of November to the Congress of the United States by a popular vote of his State, and his State had subsequently elected him to the Senate of the United States by what was recognized as the legal Legislature thereof, would he have done otherwise than I did; whether the gentleman would have been so patriotic and considered the dignity of this House so far above that of the Senate as to have said "I will not take the seat in the Senate, I will take the seat in the House?" If this House is composed of gentlemen of that character I am frank to admit that they are more disinterested patriots than I have yet found in my brief political career.

The rule adopted by all those I am acquainted with has been to take the best office they could obtain, and if I follow in the foot-steps of my illustrious predecessors I suppose they must attribute it to the characteristics which they are pleased to ascribe to our race, that of being imitative, and say I have simply imitated them. Now, sir, I do not believe there is a single member of this House who situated as I was would have acted in a single particular otherwise than I have done as to this preference.

Mr. Sheridan comes before this House without any claim whatever. He has not even a *prima facie* case. He has no authority before this House, on the admission of the committee itself, to show that he is entitled to a seat, except so far as the report of the minority goes. And why? Why, sir, the only authority that he has brought here, in the language and by the admissions of the committee, is a certificate—from whom? From ex-Governor H. C. Warmoth, which certificate was made, it appears, on the 4th day of December, when the report of the committee abundantly shows that no promulgation of the vote for Congressmen at large of the State had been made until the 11th day of December—seven days thereafter. Now, I would like to know right here how Governor Warmoth obtained the extraordinary power of ascertaining seven days before the result was declared by the returning board the vote which Mr. Sheridan obtained. It appears to me that it is a problem which would puzzle some of these gentlemen here. I would like to ask any member of this House coming from a well-regulated State whether in your State any man could foretell seven days before the return of your vote the exact number of votes you were to get as a member of this House? If the House needed any evidence of the manifest tampering with these returns on which they base so much, I think it is found in the fact that Governor Warmoth gave this certificate seven days before the promulgation, with the exact result of the count of the votes Mr. Sheridan had received. I say, then, Mr. Sheridan has not even a valid certificate. If Governor Warmoth was the undisputed Governor of Louisiana to-day, the certificate issued in that manner is illegal, null and void. What is the law of Louisiana, sir, upon that point?

In the Digest of the Statutes of Louisiana, section 33, will be found this language:

As soon as possible after the expiration of the time of making the returns of the election of Representatives in Congress, a certificate of the returns of the election for such Representatives shall be entered on record by the Secretary of State, and signed by the Governor, and a copy thereof, subscribed by said officers, shall be delivered to the person so elected and another copy transmitted to the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, directed to the Clerk thereof.

That is the law, sir. It does not say that before the promulgation of the returns the governor is authorized to guess out the result and make a certificate for his men that they may run ahead of the legal Representatives and get a *prima facie* case, as was done with the indecent haste, it appears to me, in the case of Mr. Boreman, from the fifth district.

But it is said that the governor shall give his certificate "as soon as possible" after the result of the election is ascertained. He has no choice; the duty is mandatory. And being in the position of acting Governor of Louisiana, when the time arrived I made out the certificates of the returns of the several persons who had been elected to the Congress of the United States; and unfortunately I am afraid the duty devolved upon me of certifying to my own election.

But let us see whether those certificates are worth anything or not. I have heard some gentlemen say that by reason of all the disturbances down there of which they had to take judicial cognizance these certificates are not worth anything. If that be the case, I ask by what authority do Mr. Morey and Mr. Darrell sit upon the floor of this House? They hold the certificates of P. B. S. Pinchback, acting Governor of Louisiana, which is the only evidence they have presented and upon which you speedily admitted them; and they sit here to-day with their seats uncontested.

It is urged that my certificate, by reason of the irregularities charged, does not carry with it a *prima facie* right. I think the seating of those two gentlemen shows the absurdity of such reasoning, because if it did not convey at least a *prima facie* right, how in the name of common sense could the House seat Mr. Morey and Mr. Darrell? But, sir, the House has gone further than this. On the 3rd day of December, I think the second day of your session, a resolution was offered in this House to the effect that J. Hale Sypher, Lionel A. Sheldon, and P. B. S. Pinchback be declared *prima facie* entitled to seats on this floor, and the House, on a vote taken by yeas and nays, by a very large majority declared that J. Hale Sypher was entitled to a seat *prima facie*. The question had been divided, and swiftly following that vote came a motion that Lionel A. Sheldon was also entitled to a seat *prima facie*, and both these gentlemen were seated. It must be remembered right here, and it is important that Republican members should take cognizance of the fact, that in seating Mr. Sypher you seated what was considered the very worst case from the State of Louisiana, and I have heard several members declare that if Mr. Sypher was elected, then the whole team was elected. You accorded that gentleman his seat on a *prima facie* right; I now propose to hold you to your ruling. If Mr. Sypher and all the other members of the delegation are entitled to seats *prima facie* with precisely the same credentials presented by myself, there can be no question as to my right *prima facie* to a seat in this House. I ask the House to preserve its consistency. Do not discriminate between citizens in Louisiana. I say that if you refuse to accord me the *prima facie* right to the seat, you make "flesh of one and fish of another." You cannot dodge this question; it comes up face to face and teeth to teeth, and you must meet it.

Sir, I demand simple justice. I am not here as a beggar. I do not care so far as I am personally concerned whether you give me my seat or not. I will go back to my people and come here again; but I tell

you to preserve your own consistency. Do not make flesh of one while you have made fish of everybody else. My friend General Sheridan lays great stress on the assertion I ran behind my ticket. How he arrives at that extraordinary conclusion I am at a loss to know. The contrary will be seen by a glance at the Foreman returns, and I propose to make the Foreman returns the basis of my contest for the sake of argument, as the gentleman swears by those returns. Now I say that I ran ahead of every colored candidate on the Republican ticket. That is a point that I am afraid my astute friend overlooked. He has taken as the basis of his remarks the returns of a board which he admits are of no account whatever. He declares that the Lynch board had no authority whatever on which to base any count. Well, I will not debate that question. I take the returns of the Foreman board, and I will show that his assertion that I ran behind the ticket is false in every particular. Here is the canvassed vote:

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Kellogg | 55,970 |
| Aniolis | 53,154 |
| Deslonde | 53,083 |
| Fields | 54,439 |
| Clinton | 53,538 |
| Brown | 54,402 |
| Pinchback | 54,402 |

This shows that I received 808 votes over every other colored man on the State ticket, and ran only about 1,000 behind Mr. Kellogg himself.

Now, these are the returns the gentleman boasts of. I might add right here, since the gentleman took advantage of his position to give me a little poke in the ribs, that in every parish that I canvassed I was assured by the white people that they would vote for me in preference to a carpe-lagger, that they knew I had an interest in the State, and would either vote for me or vote at all; and instead of my running behind my ticket, it seems to me that he ought to have run behind his.

But there are other reasons why the gentleman might be expected to run behind his ticket. His democracy, if indeed he has any—I do not know where he stands, although I have asked him several times—but his democracy was of much recent date that I do not think his friends had much respect for it. I think he has rather been used by others. They knew that he was gifted with oratory, that he had the power of indulging in oratorical flights and of rounding his periods eloquently, and they placed him on their ticket for that purpose rather than for any merit he possessed.

But there is another important point which I want to call the attention of the House, and especially do I desire to appeal to the Republican members in regard to it. The gentleman said he would make no partisan appeals. He might easily make that statement, because he has a partisan record. He has not been a consistent member of any party, and consequently he can make no partisan appeal.

But, Mr. Speaker, I have a clear and unimpeached party record. From the first day when you clothed me with the right to vote to the present, I have voted at every election the straight Republican ticket. And what is more than that, I have done that in Louisiana which few men have done in any portion of the country; I have shown on several occasions that I held party success above personal interest. I will introduce an incident in the party campaign of 1873 in Louisiana that confirms this statement. You all remember the celebrated military race which was alluded to by the gentleman from New York [Mr. Smith]. How did that race come about? On that change a tale which, if I had time, I would like to tell. Right there will be found the clue to the whole of this contest. In the summer of 1873 the Republican party was apparently hopelessly divided; two factions were in the field, headed respectively by William Pitt Kellogg and myself. No man in Louisiana will deny that my ticket was supported by a large number of the white people, and that a majority of the Republicans of that State, and yet for the sake of Republican success, both in my State and the country I agreed to terms of compromise with the contending Republicans which necessitated the withdrawal of my candidacy for governor. It is always charged that I am not trustworthy, not reliable, if I dare to complain of the bad faith of some of my Republican associates, and any attempt to expose their perfidy is held to be a betrayal of the Republican party. This class of men have made all kinds of assaults on me; they have paid public journals, employed persons of a heavy coat to write me down, and they have published papers in my own State to defame me; and if I complain, they say that I am trying to break up the Republican party. If I strike a blow in defense of the colored man's interest, they say I am false to their forces. I recognize the fact that I am a full-fledged American citizen, and from this day on I propose to do what I conceive to be right, no matter whether it subserves Republican or Democratic interests.

My faith in the Republican party is as strong as any man's can be. I have given evidence of that fact. I gave evidence of it when I came down from the head of a ticket supported, I think, by a majority of the Republican voters in Louisiana for governor; and which was very graciously alluded to by my friend, General Sheridan, in that I showed a spirit of concession and a desire for unity, harmony and Republican success which few men in this country had shown. I did not stop here, but I started out in the country to help the Republican party in the general national contest. The National Republican committee seemed to think that my humble service would be available to some good, and they invited me to come

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North in time to take part in the campaign in Maine. I accepted their invitation, and made several speeches in the interest of the Republican ticket in that State. On my return to New York I met Mr. Chandler, secretary of the national committee, and told him the condition of things in Louisiana. I said unless some means were taken to strike from the statute-books of Louisiana Governor Warmoth and election laws was stricken from the statute-books of Louisiana Governor Warmoth would count in the fusion ticket. He asked me how it could be saved, and I told him that there was but one way on earth; that was for me to take my life in my hands and start for New Orleans, and if I got there before Governor Warmoth I could save it. That is where the great railroad came in. He asked me if I was willing to undertake it, and I said I was willing to undertake anything that would save the Republican party. I knew I would save the Republican party, but the danger I should encounter but was brave enough to risk it. My friend Warmoth, who is as full of tricks as a cat is of mice, managed to get control of the telegraph and railroad and anticipating that I would expect telegrams from Mr. Chandler, arranged at Canton, Mississippi, an ingenious plan to defeat me. When the train stopped at that place the conductor awoke me from a slumber, and said there is a dispatch in the telegraph office for you. I hurriedly rushed out of the car into the office for the telegram, presuming that the conductor would wait a moment for me. Upon entering the office the door was closed behind me and locked upon the outside by the merest accident, of course. By the time I got out of the office the cars were miles on their way, and I consequently failed in my object. I venture to say that had I been successful, Louisiana would have had a fair election, and this case would not now be before this House and much of the disgrace resting upon our State would have been averted.

Now come back to the point I left and to which I desire to claim the especial attention of the point I left, and to the House. I say that you have in every single instance recognized the certificate which I present here as *prima facie* right to a seat on this floor. I have been told by the best legal talent which I can command that the *prima facie* right carries with it all the merits of the case until overturned. Upon that ground I contend that I am entitled to a seat on the floor of this House.

If the House shall vote to adopt the report of the majority of the committee, I have no complaint to make. I accept the report, and desire the fullest and complete examination into this whole question. I am further strengthened in that desire because I find that the committee in their report use this language:

If this case be remanded for further proof and be fully developed, the result, there is reason to believe, will either demonstrate that the Kellogg government is rightfully in power or will furnish the proof that it is a usurpation.

I find much comfort in these words, for they are conclusive proof that the trouble in this contest rests upon the validity of the Kellogg government. I desire to know whether that government represents the majority of the voters of Louisiana, or whether it is a usurpation. Therefore I am in favor of the report of the Committee on Elections. I would ask as a special favor to myself that that report be adopted. But in the mean time I contend that if you would be consistent, you must accord me that *prima facie* right which you have accorded to every other member upon my certificate.

But if you are not satisfied with my certificate, the committee has in its possession another certificate forwarded here by Governor Kellogg, a certificate made from a transcript of the returns now on file in the office of the secretary of state. If you can find any such returns there in favor of my friend, Mr. Sheridan, and if he can get such a certificate, I will waive my right. But he has nowhere on file any record of his election.

Now, sir, I want to take up two or three points of the argument of the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi, (Mr. Lamar,) and I desire to say that I differ from him with reluctance. I believe, as I said before, that he was sincere in what he said. I know something of his State. He bears the character of an honest, fair-minded southern gentleman, and I frank to admit that if there is any class of men on the face of the earth for whom I have great personal respects it is that class of gentlemen. Therefore I differ from him with a great deal of regret.

The first point I desire to notice is his statement that there is only a contest in twelve parishes. Of course that would strike many members as extraordinary. But I say to the Republicans here that if they will turn to the records they will ascertain that those twelve or thirteen parishes are all strong Republican parishes. You will not find any contest in Democratic parishes, because it was not necessary in those parishes to cheat in order to get a Democratic majority. But you will find that every one of the contested parishes is largely Republican. They had to get up a contest, they had to get up charges of fraud, they had to get up something of that kind to make up a Democratic majority, or throw out the parish, which amounts to the same thing.

Now, if you wish to have a fair statement, I ask you to turn to the record. I ask you to go over the records of Mr. Foreman and his colleagues; and you will find that every parish in which these gentlemen have failed to make reports or in which they contend there is a contest, has a large Republican majority. I ask any Republican on this floor whether this of itself ought not to be sufficient evidence of fraud.

peculiar. The gentleman from Mississippi said that this report proposed to kill Sheridan, but did not intend to seat me. Now, I can scarcely conceive that that is correct, and yet I know from the remarks of the gentleman that I have heard gentlemen probably who did not know me—that there is some kind of an understanding at work in this House. I heard one gentleman say that he intended to vote against me; but I will not tell the House the reason he assigned, because it is too ridiculous. But he assigned a very extraordinary reason why he proposed to vote against me and for Mr. Sheridan.

I repeat, I am not arraigning the committee, because it has done just the thing I desired. I want a full investigation. But I do hope that no Republican will for any reason allow himself to be prejudiced against admitting my claim at least on the *prima facie* case. I say that to do so is unmanly and unjust, not only to me as an individual, but to the State of Louisiana. It is unjust to Louisiana, because as long as these contests are kept up both here and in the Senate I am made the instrument by which the sovereign State of Louisiana is deprived at this crisis of her life of two votes in the national Congress. I protest against it in the name of the whole people of Louisiana. I say that a speedy solution of these questions ought to be had without any respect to my personal inclinations.

This House must not be biased by anything that may happen at the other end of the Capitol, and which in no way concerns the question here. The question here is, "Am I entitled to a seat?" If so, it is the duty, I take it, of Republicans here to so declare and allow me to be admitted to represent Louisiana, or else let me go about my business.

Gentlemen apparently fail to understand that I have some individual rights in regard to this question. Such of them as have spent much time here know what it costs to live in the city of Washington. They know what it costs to travel on railroads unless you have a free pass, which I do not happen to have; and I never have had one in my life, and I never expect to have one. There is something due to me as a humble individual, a citizen of this country. I want you to determine this question upon its merits and in the interest of fairness and justice. I hold that inasmuch as you have seated every other member from the State of Louisiana upon the self-same paper which I present you are in justice compelled to seat me. There must be some party fealty and some fair play.

One other very important point was made by the gentleman from Mississippi. He stated that no party can sustain the iniquity, the rascality, the corruption, and the fraud of the southern governments. Now, have the members of this Congress, have the people of this country, ever stopped to consider what was after all the true cause of all evils that are now the subject of complaint in the South. I know not what is true of the other Southern States, but I can state here, without fear of contradiction, that in the State of Louisiana the responsibility is largely upon the democracy. I can show here by irrefutable facts that in the first election held under the reconstruction acts the democracy of Louisiana, entertaining the insane idea that Seymour and Blair could be elected, treated the reconstruction acts as a nullity, and in many portions of the State instigated and thrust forward the most ignorant colored men that could be found for election to the constitutional convention, with the view of making that convention a farce; and in order to make success certain they put no competing candidates in the field. Of course these men were elected, held seats in the convention, in which they voted with their friends. The constitution was framed, submitted to the people, and ratified. Illiterate men returned home successful statesmen, and from that day to this nearly every man in Louisiana has felt himself every inch a statesman, and from this policy has arisen in a great degree the ignorance that has found its way into the public offices of our State.

But that is not the worst of it. In many instances this policy has been resorted to by white Republicans when they have found a colored man with intelligence, cultivation, and sagacity; that they disliked and desired to destroy. The colored people have begun to understand this trick and to appreciate intelligence among their class, and to realize that they are held responsible for bad governments in the South; and I say if you will let them alone and only treat them with fair play, encourage them when they make an effort to do what is right, they will work out their own salvation. When they understand that all bad laws, all penalizations, iniquities, frauds, and corruption which are charged upon these governments will at last be laid upon their shoulders and they will be held responsible for the same, in my judgment they will be swift to move in the right direction to rectify any wrong which may exist, by the

selection of honest, intelligent and competent men to administer the affairs of the Government.

Mr. Speaker, you will find the outcropping of this desire in Louisiana to-day. You will not only find it there but you will find it in Tennessee, in South Carolina, and wherever else in the South you may choose to push your investigations. What they require is that you shall encourage them in these laudable efforts toward reform. You should be the first to encourage them to do what is right. Do not tell them to follow blindly after this man or the other man. Do not tell them that if they in the exercise of their rights dare to assert their manhood and elect from among their own people intelligent, honest, and capable men to fill a fair proportion of the offices it will destroy the Republican party and lay them open to the charge of negroizing the South. I contend Mr. Speaker, from the very outset that Republican interests would be advanced by honest governments in the Southern States, as well as in the Northern States and honest governments in the South you will get just so soon as the colored people understand you will hold them responsible for the same and not the men they elect.

Gentlemen on the other side have told us that the white people the South accepted the situation. I thought they had, at least I began to think they had, just before the last general election. It was believed at that time that I was inclined to favor the liberal Republican movement in Louisiana. These gentlemen then began to find out that I was not so bad as they had been in the habit of charging. They had prior to this alleged that I was a fire-brand, that I was corrupt, and that I was everything that was bad, just as they say about Republicans generally. But when they thought that I was inclined to democracy through the liberal Republican party, and would accept a place on their ticket, the fusion convention of Louisiana tendered to me the unanimous nomination for Congress from the State at large on their ticket, the very place which was afterward given to General Sheridan. When they found that they could not get me because I would not accept the position, not many days elapsed after this failure to compromise before they were restored to their former opinion.

Mr. SHERIDAN, (in his seat.) You wanted to be the Lieutenant Governor?

Mr. PINCHBACK. O, yes, I had a hankering that way, but that was not the difficulty. I demanded the same representation for the colored people that they had on the Republican ticket, but they could not see that it would have interfered with their arrangement with Governor Warmoth to send him to the United States Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to look back over the political history of Louisiana for the last ten years. You will find that we have been in a most extraordinary condition, the last three of which have subjected me to much misrepresentation and I fear that the judgment of some of the members of this House has been affected by what they have heard in reference to me. I do not blame them for it, if it be true. For notwithstanding I am a Republican working hard and earnestly always in the interests of the Republican party, certain men in Louisiana who claim to be Republicans have insistently labored to destroy my power and influence in my State. I have been stabbed in the house of my friends. For two long years these men published a paper professing to be Republican whose columns daily teemed with the vilest and bitterest denunciations of my character only equalled, as I once told President Grant, by the New York Sun in its attacks upon him. The baneful influence of these assaults has overshadowed me firmly in the Senate and hangs like an ominous cloud over this body, and may prevent my obtaining a recognition *prima facie* to a seat upon the floor of this House.

It is but another dastardly attempt on the part of these men to deprive me of my right and the people of Louisiana of a vote in this House, because I am unwilling to be cheated by these false Republicans, and too manly to be used as their tool. I shall not blame you.

But I shall hold those false friends responsible at home. I have skirmished heretofore; I shall fight hereafter. I do not believe that you gentlemen will be biased by these reports, so far as your action upon this case is concerned, but they may affect your opinion of me as an individual, and I humbly beg your pardon if I have trespassed upon your time in introducing this personal feature. But when you consider the attitude I have been in for two years nearly that I have been held up before the American people in a manner that two of your ablest and best men could not stand, and still I live. I will be pardoned I suppose for having made these personal references, for you know it is a trying ordeal for any man to pass when he is held up for two years before the American press, especially if he is an aspirant for office, and as in my case claiming a seat in the Senate of the United States. You may be sure if he ever committed an indiscretion of any kind in all his life they will be certain to find it out and hurl it at him greatly magnified.

Mr. Speaker, I will treat my

friend, Sheridan, lightly, but I could give him a fearful rasping if I were inclined. I have heard him make most eloquent speeches in the interest of republicanism and on behalf of the poor and down-trodden in our State. He has made our rostrums ring with appeals on behalf of down-trodden humanity. But that was at a time when his interests were on our side, when his claims to a fat office were pending. Then he found that the poor ignorant and helpless race needed the arm of the Government. He did not complain then about Federal bayonets and Federal interference. I remember the time when he joined as heartily with me as did any black man in Louisiana in exploring Federal aid. I remember the memorable contest known as the Carter fight, when my friend came up valiantly to assist us in our attempts to keep off the forces of Colonel Carter and requesting Federal interference and aid; but at that time it was a matter which concerned his interest. And when I saw the extraordinary position which he took in this House to-day, I was reminded of the old adage, that it makes a great difference whose ox was gored. I could tell a tale here on my little friend—but I know he is a clever little gentleman; I will let him off as lightly as he did me.

But there is one thing that he said that is really amazing. He gave you an argument of an hour and a quarter nearly, or of fully an hour, to show that you cannot attach any importance whatever to the return of the Lynch board, on the ground they had no evidence before them of my election—that they had no returns; and he wound up his great rhetorical display by telling you he could not get the returns and had to take the next evidence. That is exactly what the Lynch board did. Mr. Warmoth had looked up the returns, and they made several and repeated efforts to get them. The Federal court was applied to to compel their production, but they were spirited off to New York or elsewhere, so as to prevent the Federal court getting them. And they had to do what Mr. Sheridan said was done in his case—they took the next best evidence.

But I base my claim to a seat on the floor on higher grounds than that. Let me say I know more of these election frauds perhaps than any other man, excepting Warmoth and Blanchard, in Louisiana. When President Grant refused to treat with us as Long Branch, I was one of the delegation that visited him. I knew there was a solemn convulsion of our side of the house held, and it was agreed that by fair means or foul we would defeat the Federal ticket in the State of Louisiana—at least the white part of the convulsion agreed upon that I had a good many friends under Warmoth in office, and was comfortably housed myself. I concluded that I would drive along with him until I could get a convenient jumping-off place. I would also see what his plans were, so as to be able to defeat them. O, I could tell you a tale that would harrow your very soul. But you know enough of it without my telling you. The whole thing was a fraud; yet I venture to say that if there was any way on earth of getting at the facts, it would be found that the whole Kellogg ticket, including myself, were elected by 10,000 majority. But I repeat, the whole thing was a fraud and a series of rascalities. Look at the proceedings. Why, sir, they rode roughshod over laws, constitutions, people, and everything until they got to a Federal judge, and they would have ridden over him also if it had not been for the Federal troops.

Mr. Speaker, there are innumerable other points that I would like to touch upon; but I think the best thing I can do for the House and myself in this warm weather will be to quit. I think I have said enough either to save me or to damn me, and I submit the question to the House for its decision, and cheerfully await the result.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION IN ST. JOSEPH.

The Convention was called to order in St. Joseph, Tennessee parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, April 25, 1874, at 1 P. M., and Hon. H. R. Steele was elected Chairman, and J. H. Bird, Secretary pro tem.

On motion the chair appointed a committee of five on credentials, to wit: James S. Matthews, J. P. Porter, James Briscoe, Fred. Winston, Spencer Ross.

On motion the chair appointed a committee of five on permanent organization, to wit: J. R. Stewart, J. P. Harlow, Wesley Dixon, William Coolidge, Clark Harrison.

After a recess the committee on credentials reported the following named gentlemen entitled to seats in the convention: First Ward, Hollywood Grant Club; Gabriel Johnson, Peare Davis, Jas. Payne, Miles Trimble.

Evergreen Grant Guards—Garrett Johnson, James Gillespie.

Pinchback Guards—Wm. Coolidge, Jordan Brown, Atlas Johnson, Second Ward, Balmoral Legion Club—Spencer Ross, Eli Briggs, Wm. Anderson, A. J. Bryant, Willie Baker.

Williamson Club—Leroy Branch, Verney Robinson.

Stonewall, Shackelford and Hollygrove Clubs—E. C. Routh, R. J. Walker, J. D. Dora.

Third Ward, Moses Avenue Club—Solomon Shaffer, Moses Gibson, Wm. Price, Elias Owens, James Shaffer.

St. Joseph Club—H. B. Steele, James S. Matthews, Wesley Dixon.

Grant and Dora Club—John A. Green and J. A. N. Gould.

Warrenton Club—M. Bine, E. L. Whitely, Clark Harrison, John Wiggins.

Aroundale Club—John P. Harlow, James Briscoe, Paris T. Burckett.

Ever Ready—J. H. Bird and Louis Payne.

Fourth Ward, Pinchback Pioneers—J. Ross Stewart, C. S. Kinney, William Peterson.

Grant Magnolias—M. Baker, J. H. Henry, C. C. Cordill.

Fifth Ward, Lincoln Club—E. C. Tyler, William Soliver, Reuben Gasby, Mark Allen.

Sixth Ward—J. P. Porter, G. W. Tiffey, Henry Jones, F. W. Winston, Alfred Fairfax, (A. Davis, proxy), Lyman Ross, Caesar Ray.

Seventh Ward—Isaac Johnson, F. D. Barnes.

The report was received and unanimously adopted.

The committee on permanent organization submitted their report, as follows:

President—Hiram R. Steele.

Vice Presidents—A. J. Bryant, M. Bine, M. Coolidge, J. A. Green, C. C. Cordill, Wesley Dixon, C. Harrison, Caesar Ray, Fred. Winston, Alfred Fairfax, Solomon Shaffer, J. M. Gillespie, Paris Burckett, R. J. Walker, Howard Thompson and others.

Secretary—J. H. Bird—Assistant Secretary—J. P. Porter.

Marshals—Brooks Gilmore, Nathaniel Collins.

Report of the committee received and adopted unanimously, and a permanent organization effected by the election of the officers recommended.

The following resolution was offered:

Resolved, That the President of this convention appoint a committee of five, who shall recommend to the convention thirteen Republicans as a parish executive committee; provided, that the delegates from each ward shall name the members of the executive committee to represent their several wards, and that when elected they shall continue to act as such until the first day of June, 1877.

An amendment was offered to the above resolution, to wit:

That the executive committee shall consist of fifteen members—one from each ward and eight from the parish at large.

Amendment received and resolution adopted.

The chair appointed on said committee the following members, to wit: E. L. Whitely, chairman; J. P. Harlow, M. Bine, Caesar Ray, A. J. Bryant.

On motion the chair appointed the following delegates as a committee on resolutions: C. C. Cordill, chairman; J. M. Gillespie, Solomon Shaffer, Jordan Brown, Spencer Ross.

The committee appointed to select and recommend fifteen persons to compose a parish executive committee, reported as follows:

From first ward, Gabriel Johnson, second ward, R. J. Walker; third ward, S. Shaffer; fourth ward, William Owens; fifth ward, Willis Sylvain; sixth ward, Alfred Fairfax; seventh ward, Jerry Murphy.

From the parish at large, H. R. Steele, A. J. Bryant, J. M. Gillespie, M. Bine, William Coolidge, J. S. Matthews, J. Ross Stewart, W. H. Griffith.

For secretary of the committee, J. P. Harlow.

The report of the committee was received and adopted unanimously.

The committee on resolutions reported as follows:

Whereas, We are again reminded by the present disastrous overflow and the consequent destruction of property and suffering among our people, that it is an impossibility for the State to protect this valley from the annual floods of the Mississippi; therefore, be it

Resolved, That our levee interests are paramount to all other interests in Louisiana, and that we believe the national government has a right under the constitution to protect and improve the navigation of the Mississippi river by such expenditure from the national treasury as may be necessary, and to maintain the levees, which are incidental to the same, and that if the subject is properly presented and urged by the members of Congress from this valley, our government will give us the protection needed.

Resolved, That we call upon our Representatives from Louisiana, both in Congress and our State Legislature, to make every effort to bring this matter before the national Congress and secure the adoption of a national levee system.

Resolved, That we will support no man for Congress, or any State office, who will not pledge his unswerving efforts to secure the building of our levees by the national government.

Whereas, Many people of our parish are suffering from the effects of the overflow of the Mississippi river, and unless some immediate relief is afforded, great suffering and distress will prevail, and many people will die of starvation; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States has passed a law directing that provisions be distributed to those people who are not able to obtain the necessities of life, and the people of the East and North are contributing money and supplies to the sufferers in the overflowed valley; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we urge our police jury to do all in their power to secure a portion of such supplies furnished, and to see that they are properly distributed to the suffering people of Tenness.

The report was received and unanimously adopted.

The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

Resolved, That the executive committee of the parish shall not be increased or diminished without being authorized by a parish convention.

Resolved, That on or before the first day of May, 1877, the executive committee shall call a convention of the Republicans of the parish for the purpose of electing a parish executive committee for the two years following June 1, 1877.

Resolved, That the secretaries of the parish executive committee shall transmit immediately to the State Central Executive Committee the number of Republican votes in the parish of Tenness.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the New Orleans Journal, New Orleans Republican, New Orleans Times and other Louisiana papers.

Adopted.

On motion the convention adjourned sine die.

H. R. STEELE, President.

J. H. Bird, Secretary.

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